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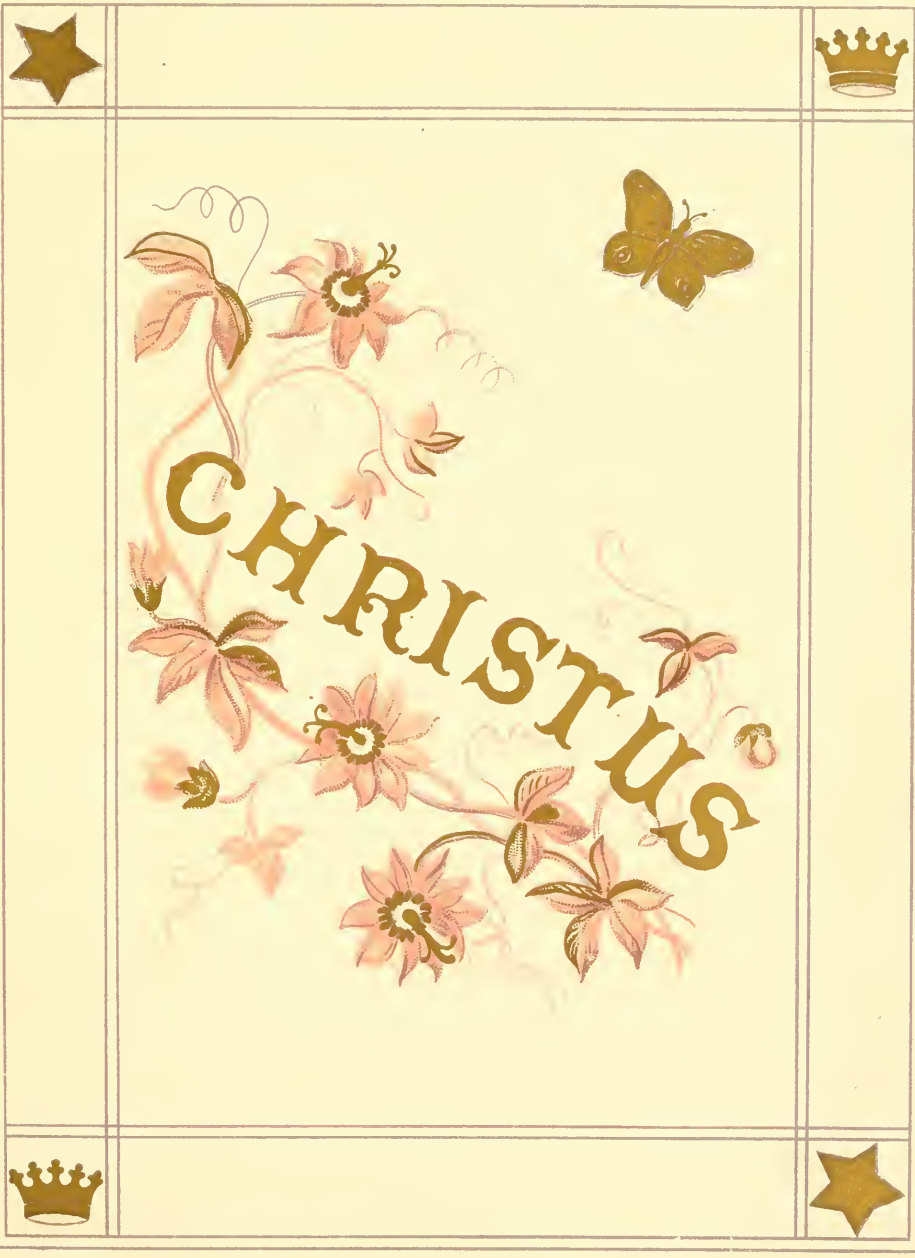

CHRISTUS

Christus.

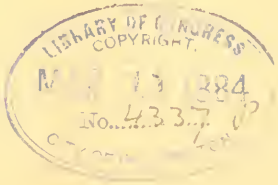
ADVENT.

THE CRUCIFIXION.

THE RESURRECTION.

THE ASCENSION.

By H. S. C.



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H. S. C.

Prophecy and Fulfilment.

Advent.

Prophecy.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.—Isaiah ix. 6.

And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.—Isaiah xi. 2.

And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears.—Isaiah xi. 3.

But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.—Isaiah xi. 4.

And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.—Isaiah xi. 5.

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice, from henceforth even for ever.—Isaiah ix. 7.

Advent.

'Twas not at dawn, nor in the noon-tide glare,
But at the midnight hour, while on the plains
Of Bethlehem, the shepherds watched their flocks,
That unto them a herald angel came,
And a bright light, the glory of the Lord,
Encompassed them and they were sore afraid:
But unto them the angel said, "Fear not,
Behold, I bring good tidings of great joy:
In David's city there is born this day
To you a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord:
And this shall be the sign, the Babe shall lie
Within a manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes."
And with the angel suddenly appeared
A heav'nly host, which praisèd God and said,
"Glory to God on high and on the earth
Be peace and good-will unto all mankind."
While, on the air these words of love still rang,
They passed again into the realms of heav'n,
And the awe-stricken shepherds stood alone.
Then said they, "Let us go and see this thing

Which now is come to pass, which unto us,
The Lord by herald angel hath made known."
So, hastening to Bethlehem—they found
Mary and Joseph, and the holy Babe
Laid in a manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes.
When they had seen it, they made known abroad
The saying, which was told them of this child,
And all that heard it wondered at those things
Which unto them the shepherds had revealed.
But Mary kept all these things in her heart
And pondered oft upon them when alone.
Then did the shepherds to Judea's plains
Return with joyful hearts, still praising God,
For all the things that they had heard and seen.

Epiphany.

THE kings of Orient from afar
In eastern sky have seen "His Star,"
And full of zeal and love they haste
With gifts, across the desert waste.

"The Holy One, oh! where is He,
Born of the Jews the King to be?"
They search the prophets, and to them
Say, "Seek the child in Bethlehem."

With joy they hasten to adore;
While the bright star moves on before,
Till filled with rapture and surprise
It leads them, where Messiah lies.

No dainty couch, in stately hall,
But pillowed in a lowly stall,
The royal child, great David's Son,
His life on earth hath now begun.

Th' Incarnate God, Lord over all,
Lo, at His feet they humbly fall,
And there, their offerings unfold,
Gifts of frankincense, myrrh, and gold--

O! happy they who saw His face,
But happier we, who know His grace;
To all mankind the Saviour came,
To bring salvation, through His name.

Prophecy and Fulfilment.

The Crucifixion.

Prophecy.

He is despised and rejected of men ; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief ; and we hid as it were our faces from him : he was despised, and we esteemed him not.—Isaiah liii. 3.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities ; the chastisement of our peace was upon him ; and with his stripes we are healed.—Isaiah liii. 5.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted ; yet he opened not his mouth : he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.—Isaiah liii. 7.

He was taken from prison and from judgment : and who shall declare his generation ? for he was cut off out of the land of the living : for the transgression of my people was he stricken.—Isaiah liii. 8.

And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death ; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.—Isaiah liii. 9.

Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.—ISAIAH liii. 10.

Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.—ISAIAH liii. 12.

The Crucifixion.

THE Saviour's life was not a life of joy:
From early dawn of childhood He had known
His mission upon earth, yet onward trod
The thorny path which led unto the cross.
And now the end was come, the keenest pang
Of all the griefs and sorrows which the Lord
Had yet encountered, now must be endured.
Not e'en the agony He bore alone
In silent garden of Gethsemane,
While near Him slept His weary followers,
Who unto Him would soon unfaithful prove;
Nor yet the kiss of Judas, as he gave
His Lord and Master, to His enemies:
Peter's threefold denial in the court:
None of them all had been like unto this.
'Twas in the morning, to the judgment-seat
Of Pilate, He was bound and led by those
(His bitter foes) for whom He came to die.
Messiah, the long-looked-for of their race,
But unto them, He was "the Nazarene,"
A lowly man, "son of the carpenter."

Forgetful of His mighty words and deeds,
And moved with envy, they delivered Him
To Pilate, that He might be crucified.
But when before the judgment-seat He stood,
Falsely accused by them of many things,
He answered not a word, that marvelling,
Pilate said unto Him, "Hearest Thou not
How many things they witness against Thee?"
But still He silent stood and answered not.
Now as the custom was upon that day,
One was released to them, whom they desired.
So they to Pilate cried that he should do
To them as he was wont. Then Pilate said,
"Will ye that I release to you your king?"
But they cried, "Not this man, but Barabbas,"
(For insurrection and for murder bound.)
Again, he asked, "What will ye that I do
With Him, whom ye call King?" Still louder cried
They unto him, "Let Him be crucified."
Then took he water and did wash his hands
Before them, saying, "Of this just man's blood,
Guiltless am I: *ye* must take and judge Him;
I find in Him no fault or cause of death."
Then cried they all, "His blood be upon us
And on our children." Then Pilate scourged Him,
And unto them, he then delivered Him.
Then led they Him away into the hall
Pretorium, and clothed Him in a robe
Of purple, and upon His head they placed

A platted crown of thorns, and in His hand
A reed: bowing the knee they worshipped Him.
Then did they spit upon Him in contempt,
And with the reed they smote Him on the head.
Taking from Him the royal, purple robe,
They put on Him the coat without a seam.
Beyond the city walls they led Him forth
And on one, Simon of Cyrene, they laid
The cross, who, bearing it, did follow them,
Until they reached the place called Calvary.
And there they raised it, with the blessed Lord
Fastened thereon by nail-pierced hands and feet,
And o'er His head this accusation placed,
"Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."
And with Him other two were crucified,
On each side one and Jesus in the midst.
Thus was the prophecy fulfilled which saith,
"With the transgressors they did number Him."
Then those that passèd by did wag the head
And rail on Him, and say, "Thou that canst raze
The temple, and rebuild it in three days,
Now save Thyself and come down from the cross."
Likewise the priests mocked with the scribes and said,
"He others saved, He can not save Himself.
Let Christ the King of Israel from the cross
Descend, then will we all believe in Him."
But Jesus with a love exceeding far
The love of men, "Father (in pity cried),
Forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Now from the hours, the sixth until the ninth,
Fell a great darkness over all the land,
When with a voice, loud e'en in hour of death,
He cried, "Eli, lama sabacthani."
And yet again He cried with a loud voice,
Then bowed His head and yielded up the ghost.
The vail was in the temple rent in twain;
The solid earth did quake, and rocks were rent;
While forth from open graves arose and walked
The bodies of those saints which there had slept.
And these the words of the Centurion,
Who gazing on, had seen the Saviour die,
"Yea, truly, this man was the Son of God."

Good Friday.

THE Christ, the Lamb of God:
'Twas for our sins He died:
Life's weary pathway trod:
Was scourged and crucified.
Here in the dust on bended knee,
We lift our hearts, O Christ, to Thee.

Behold, His thorn-crowned head!
His piercèd hands and feet!
He suffered in our stead,
A sacrifice complete.
Here in the dust on bended knee,
We lift our hearts, O Christ, to Thee.

Forgive, O Holy One,
Cleanse us without, within,
We through Thy blood alone
Find pardon for each sin.
Here in the dust on bended knee,
We lift our hearts, O Christ, to Thee.

No other name we plead,
For Thine alone can save;
Help in our hour of need,
Thy pard'ning grace we crave.
Here in the dust on bended knee,
We lift our hearts, O Christ, to Thee.

Jesus, Thou Lamb of God,
Oh, hear us while we pray!
In Thy redeeming blood,
Wash all our sins away.
Here in the dust on bended knee,
We lift our hearts, O Christ, to Thee.

Prophecy and Fulfilment.

The Resurrection.

Prophecy.

For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.—Job xix. 25.

And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God :—Job xix. 26.

Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another ; though my reins be consumed within me.—Job xix. 27.

For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell ; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.—Psalm xvi. 10.

For he hath broken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron in sunder.—Psalm cvii. 16.

Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust : for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.—Isaiah xxvi. 19.

I will ransom them from the power of the grave ; I will redeem them from death.—HOSEA xiii. 14.

He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces ; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth ; for the Lord hath spoken it.—ISAIAH xxv. 8.

The Resurrection.

THE first day of the week, before the dawn,
(While yet 'twas dark) came Mary Magdalene
With eager feet unto the sepulchre:
Wondering as she came about the seal,
And who for her would roll away the stone.
Appalled she sees the widely opened door,
With fearful heart to Simon Peter runs,
And unto him who on the Saviour's breast
Had leaned at supper, the belovèd one,
Crying, "The stone is rolled away, and they
The Lord have taken from the sepulchre,
And no one knoweth where He hath been laid."
Then quickly ran they forth, but one before
The other reached the tomb, and looking in,
He saw the linen clothes, yet entered not.
Then cometh Simon Peter after him,
And entering the sepulchre, he saw
The linen clothes, and lying by itself
The napkin, which had bound His sacred head.
Then also went the other in and saw,
And seeing he believed the words the Lord

Had spoken unto them while on the earth,
Though from the Scripture, they as yet knew not,
He must be buried and must rise again.
Then went they back each unto his own home.
But Mary weeping, ling'ring stood without
The sepulchre, and as she wept she stooped
And looking in, two angels clothed in white
She sees, one sitting where His thorn-crowned head,
The other where His piercèd feet had lain.
They say to her, "Woman, why weepest thou?"
"My Lord and Master they have borne away,
And none can tell me where He hath been laid."
When she had spoken thus, she turned herself
And seeth Jesus, but she knew Him not.
He saith to her, "Woman, why weepest thou?
Whom seekest thou?" She thinking Him to be
The gard'ner, saith, "If thou hast borne Him hence
Tell me where He is laid, and at thy Word
I will take Him away." "Mary," He saith.
"Rabboni, Master," filled with joy she cries.
"Nay, touch me not, for I must yet ascend
Unto my Father, to my brethren go.
Say to them, to my Father I ascend,
To yours, to my God and to yours also."
Then she to the disciples came and told
That she had seen the Lord, and unto her
He had told all these things, which she had said.

Easter.

FORTH from the portals of the tomb,
See Jesus, our Redeemer, come,
Christ, the Risen Lord:
He suffered ignominy, pain,
He burst the bands of Death in twain;
A Conqueror, He comes to reign,
Christ, the Risen Lord.

Bring forth the crown of victory,
Let all the world, adoring, see
Christ, the Risen Lord.
Sing unto Him in joyful lays,
Sing songs of triumph and of praise,
Loud hallelujahs let us raise,
Christ, the Risen Lord.

The mighty God, The Prince of Peace,
His government shall never cease,
Christ, the Risen Lord.
O'er all the earth from shore to shore,
He sets His throne forevermore:
Nations shall worship and adore
Christ, the Risen Lord.

Prophecy and Fulfilment.

The Ascension.

Prophecy.

Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive.—Psalm lxviii. 18.

I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.—Daniel vii. 13.

And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.—Daniel vii. 14.

Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The Branch; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord:—Zechariah vi. 12.

Even he shall build the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne: and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.—Zechariah vi. 13.

The Ascension.

ONCE more the Lord had come upon the earth
Not from high heaven, but from darken'd tomb,
And unto men had shown Himself again
In human form: had joined them by the way,
As they did talk: into the closèd room
Had entered, upon them breathed a blessing,
While still they feared, that they a spirit saw.
Again He came and to the doubting one
He showed His wounded hands, into His side
He bade him thrust his hand, which seeing, he
Believed and cried, "It is my Lord, my God."
And yet again He came, as they did toil
'Gainst wind and waves, on Sea of Galilee,
And though they saw Him, still they knew Him not.
Jesus saith, "Children, have ye any meat?"
(For they had labored long and wearily)
They answer, "No." Then said He unto them,
"Cast ye the net again on the right side,
And ye shall find." Then cast they it again
And now they could not draw it to the land,
The multitude of fishes was so great.

Then that disciple whom the Saviour loved,
To Simon Peter said, " It is the Lord."
Jesus saith to them, " Bring now of the fish
Which ye have caught." Then saw they on the land
A fire of coals, and on it, fish and bread.
He saith, " Come ye and dine," then took He food,
And unto His disciples gave likewise.
Yet none durst say unto Him, " Who art Thou?"
For all did know it was the Lord indeed.
Yet though He came and went among them thus
In human form, He was not as before
(Though still a man) like them in lowliness—
He their Redeemer was the Risen Lord,
The Conqueror o'er the pow'rs of Sin and Death:
Who soon into the heavens would ascend,
Upon the right hand of His Father sit
To reign with Him throughout Eternity—
Yet even there He would forever plead
As Mediator, for the sons of men.
His life on earth was o'er, a perfect life
Though one of sorrow, loneliness, and pain.
Beyond Jerusalem, unto the mount
Called Olivet, He led the chosen few.
And while He spake with them a cloud of light
Encircled Him about and as He raised
His hands in benediction over them,
They saw Him taken up on the bright cloud,
Beyond their view, into the realms of heav'n.
And as they gazèd steadfastly, behold

Two men stood by them in apparel white,
Which also said, "Ye men of Galilee,
Why stand ye gazing thus, up into heav'n?
Jesus, who has ascended from your sight,
Shall in like manner come again in clouds,
As ye have seen Him go, from earth to heav'n."

Ascension Day.

"THE Lord has risen indeed,"
His work on earth is done:
He over Sin and Death,
The victory hath won;
And now 'mid clouds of glory bright,
Beyond the range of human sight,
He doth ascend to realms of light,
To His eternal throne.

Will not this mighty King,
Who rules in Heav'n above,
Forget the sons of men
Whom He, on earth, did love?
No, though He reigns exalted high,
Such love as His can never die:
He watches still, as tenderly,
Those whom He calls His own.

He welcome gives to all
Who seek His blessed face:

In heav'n He hath prepared
For them a dwelling-place:
As Mediator on His throne
He pleads His blood, which can alone
For their iniquities atone
Before His Father God.

O, love beyond compare!
So rich, so full, so free:
Here, Lord, we would devote
Ourselves, our lives to Thee—
Take us, dear Saviour, to Thy will
Conform us, cleanse us from all ill;
Our hearts with Thy blest Spirit fill,
Keep through Eternity.

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